



Solicitation#: 0900000477

Solicitation Issue Date: February 26, 2021

DUE DATES AND TIME (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME):

Bid Response:

3:00 p.m. on March 30, 2021¹

Request for administrative review:

3:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021

Questions:

3:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021

CONTRACT TYPE:

Agency:

Statewide:

Agency Name/Number: OMES Employees Group Insurance Division/090

Contract Number _____

SOLICITATION TYPE:

Request for Proposal

Request for Quote

Invitation to Bid

Information technology Bidder Instructions are applicable:

Yes

No

Terms regarding sensitive data will be included in the Contract including, but not limited to:

HIPAA _____

CJIS _____

FERPA _____

OTHER _____

1075 _____

RETURN SEALED BID TO:

OMESCPeBID@omes.ok.gov

CONTRACTING OFFICER:

Name: Stephanie Beshears

Email: Stephanie.Beshears@omes.ok.gov

Phone No. 405-522-1037

¹ Amendments may change the Bid Response Due Date (read "Amendments" in these Bidder Instructions)
09/01/2020

Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services Bidder Instructions

Information related to the Bid submission process is contained in these Bidder Instructions. **Prospective Bidders are urged to read the documents provided by the State and these Bidder Instructions carefully. Failure to do so shall be at the Bidder's risk.**

1 Definitions

The following terms, when used in these Bidder Instructions, shall have the following meanings:

- 1.1 **Alternate Bid** means a Bid which contains an intentional substantive variation to a basic provision, specification, term or condition.
- 1.2 **Amendment** means a written change, addition, correction or revision to terms, conditions or requirements by the State agency issuing the Solicitation.
- 1.3 **BAFO** means a best and final offer requested by the State agency issuing the Solicitation.
- 1.4 **Bid** means an offer a Bidder submits in response to the Solicitation.
- 1.5 **Bidder** means an individual or business entity that submits a Bid in response to the Solicitation.
- 1.6 **Bid Packet** means the order described in these Bidder Instructions in which all Bidders shall insert the relevant sections of a Bid and which shall be the format for all submitted Bids.
- 1.7 **Business Associate** shall have the meaning given to Business Associate under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 CFR § 160.103.
- 1.8 **Business Associate Agreement** is the contract between an entity covered under HIPAA and its Business Associate as required under the Privacy Rule, including (but not limited to) 45 CFR § 164.502(e)(2).
- 1.9 **Contract** shall mean the definition of contract as defined in Attachment A.
- 1.10 **EGID** means Employees Group Insurance Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. It shall also have the meaning given to the term 'Covered Entity' under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 CFR § 160.103 for purposes of this Business Associate Agreement only and to the extent required by law.
- 1.11 **FWA** means fraud, waste or abuse.
- 1.12 **HIPAA** refers to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and includes any regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.
- 1.13 **NCCI** means the National Correct Coding Initiative.
- 1.14 **OAC** means the Oklahoma Administrative Code.
- 1.15 **OMES** means the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

1.16 OMES/CP means the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Central Purchasing.

1.17 RFP means Request for Proposal

2 Instructions Compliance

These Bidder Instructions are not part of the Contract; however, compliance with these Instructions is material to the determination of whether a Bid is responsive. Terms, requirements and specifications may be stated or phrased differently than in a previous solicitation irrespective of past interpretations, practices or customs. Bid requirements are altered only by written Amendment and verbal communications from any source whatsoever are of no effect. In no event shall the Bidder's failure to read and understand a term, condition or requirement in any of the documents provided by the State constitute grounds for a claim after award of the Contract.

3 Communications and Questions

The Contracting Officer listed on the Bidder Instructions Cover Page is the only individual the Bidder should contact, or communicate with, regarding any questions or issues with the Acquisition. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the Bid being considered non-responsive or not considered for further evaluation.

3.1 General Questions

A. Questions should be concise, identify the relevant document, include specific section references and avoid use of tables or special formatting (use simple lists).

B. Information Technology Bids

i If information technology Bidder Instructions are applicable (see Bidder Instructions Cover Page), Bidder may submit general questions concerning Contract or Bid specifications or requirements online. Questions received via any other means will not be addressed.

ii Registration with the State of Oklahoma for wiki access is located at <https://omes.ok.gov/forms/wiki-enrollment-it-procurement>. Access should be requested at least five (5) business days prior to the Questions Due Date. The State is not responsible for a Bidder's lack of access to the wiki.

C. Non-Information Technology Bids

If information technology Bidder Instructions are not applicable (see Bidder Instructions Cover Page), Bidder may submit general questions concerning Contract or Bid specifications or requirements to the Contracting Officer's email address shown on the Bidder Instructions Cover Page. Questions received via any other means will not be addressed.

3.2 Clarification Questions

The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request clarifications of Bid information or to conduct discussions for the purpose of clarification with any or all Bidders. The purpose of any such discussion shall be to ensure full understanding of the Bid. If clarifications are made because of such discussion, the Bidder(s) shall submit such clarifications in writing to the Contracting Officer. Bidder answers that are outside scope of the clarification questions shall be disregarded. Oral explanations or instructions provided

to a potential Bidder are not binding.

4 Administrative Review

4.1 A Bidder that believes the Contract or Bid requirements or specifications, or Bid Response Due Date, are unnecessarily restrictive or limit competition may email a request for administrative review to the Contracting Officer. A request received via any other means will not be addressed. The State shall promptly respond in writing to each written administrative review request, and where appropriate, issue a revision, substitution or clarification through an Amendment. Requests for administrative review shall include the reason for the request, supported by information, and any proposed changes.

4.2 If a Bidder fails to notify the Contracting Officer of an ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission or other error in any of the documents provided by the State that is known to Bidder, or that reasonably should be known by Bidder, the Bidder accepts the risk of submitting a Bid and, if awarded the Contract, shall not be entitled to additional compensation, relief or time by reason of the error or its later correction.

5 Amendments

5.1 Any Amendment shall be set forth at the same online link as the Solicitation.

5.2 It is the Bidder's responsibility to check the State's website frequently for any possible Amendments that may be issued. The State is not responsible for the Bidder's failure to download any amendment documents required to complete a Bid.

6 Confidentiality Request

Unless otherwise specified in the Oklahoma Open Records Act, Central Purchasing Act, or other applicable law, documents and information a Bidder submits as part of or in connection with a Bid are public records and subject to disclosure after contract award pursuant to OAC 260:115-3-9². However, a public Bid opening does not make the Bid immediately accessible to the public. All material submitted by a Bidder becomes the property of the State. No portion of a Bid shall be considered confidential after award of the Contract except, pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.10, information in the Bid determined to be confidential by the State Purchasing Director or delegate. Typically, a properly submitted confidentiality claim of a potential awardee is reviewed and determined prior to award; a properly submitted confidentiality claim of a **non-awarded Bidder** is reviewed and determined only when responding to an open records request concerning the Bid. Additional information regarding information considered confidential by a Bidder is provided in Section 8.2.C below.

7 Acceptance of Content

Unless otherwise provided in Section Four of a Bidder's response, all Bids shall be firm representations that the responding Bidder has carefully investigated and will comply with all State terms and conditions relating to the Contract. Upon award of a contract, such terms and conditions, as may be amended by the Bid after negotiation, shall become contractual obligations between the parties.

² OAC 260:115-3-9 is located at

http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/frmMain?OpenFrameSet&Frame=Main&Src=_75tnm2shfcdnm8pb4dthj0chedppmcbq8dtmmak31ctijjrgcln50ob7ckj42tbkdt374obdcli00

8 Required Bid Structure

8.1 Preparation of Bid

A. The Bid is required to be structured into separate, labelled and easily identifiable sections using the Bid Packet format provided below. A Bid submitted using any other format may not be accepted. Except for items listed in Section Three of the Bid Packet (information requested to be held confidential), the Bid should not contain duplicative content. Any section of the Bid Packet that is not applicable to the Bid shall have a page inserted to denote the section is not applicable. For instance, if business references are not required, the Bid should contain a page after the “Business References” section heading that reads “Not Applicable”, “N/A” or some similar notation.

B. Evaluation

The Bid will be evaluated using a best value criterion, based on the following:

- i. Software Functionality and Features
- ii. Training and Support Services
- iii. Bidder Qualifications and Experience, and
- iv. Cost of program

C. Software Functionality and Features

- i. Describe the features and functionality of the user (analyst/investigator) dashboard. Can users customize queries?
- ii. Describe the sources and methodologies used to identify fraud detection and prevention.
- iii. Describe when the system is updated with newly identified fraud schemes.
- iv. Describe the system capability for role/permission based user access including a supervisor’s ability to assign new investigations, create private access for sensitive investigations, prioritize cases, review outstanding cases, run queries, track time spent on investigations, ability for a user to send notices/referrals for review/approval in system, add attachments to cases and integrate with other users.
- v. Describe how outlier providers are identified in the Bidder’s system.
- vi. Describe how geospatial data visualization and link analysis is incorporated into the system.
- vii. Describe the reporting/data analytics tools and standard reports provided. Is report customization available?
- viii. Confirm if the Bidder’s system is implemented on-premise or via cloud.
- ix. Confirm if the Bidder owns and services the products/equipment it sells, or is it a third-party broker?
- x. Does the Bidder anticipate any changes in the organization’s basic ownership structure or any other significant changes in the organization within the next twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months? If yes, please explain.
- xi. Describe the relationship with any subcontractors including but not limited to the following questions.
 1. Are they dedicated to work for Bidder exclusively?
 2. Are they individually contracted or part of a larger contracted entity?
 3. Confirm (if applicable) that all subcontractors that would be providing services to EGID are properly licensed and certified.
- xii. How will the Bidder monitor progress and performance on the account?
- xiii. Provide any performance guarantees and/or financial penalties the Bidder is willing to accept.
- xiv. Describe any pending acquisitions. If applicable, how does or will this change your business model?
- xv. Describe any legal issues or constraints that could impact the performance of the Bidder’s products/services.

- xvi. Describe why the Bidder should be selected. What functionality/feature, tool, quality and/or service makes you stand out against your competitors?

D. Training and Support Services

- i. Describe the method(s) of training available for users, such as: self-help, recorded trainings, and/or in-person training. Provide estimated length of time it takes for a new user to complete the training and become competent using the system.
- ii. Describe the tech support available such as: email, 24/7 toll-free phone support, online case submission, online help center/knowledge base, and/or online live chat support, etc. What are the average response and resolution times?
- iii. Describe limitations on the number of people utilizing the system.
- iv. Describe the ongoing system maintenance such as software patches. Describe any expected system modifications and the frequency of updates.

E. Reliability and Stability

- i. Provide the amount of downtime (scheduled and nonscheduled) which has occurred over the past year.
- ii. Describe the resiliency of the system hardware and software failure.
- iii. Explain how the system degrades when the load becomes too much. What are the alerts and warnings that appear when this happens?

F. System Backup and Disaster Recovery

- i. Describe frequency and methods utilized for backups and recovery.
- ii. Describe how information is archived in the system.

G. Security

- i. Describe security protocols and/or standards utilized to protect transmission of information and secure data collected.
- ii. Describe the method(s) of authentication used.
- iii. Complete and sign the Business Associate Agreement (Exhibit 1).

H. Data Elements

- i. Provide sample data elements for the transmission of health, dental and pharmacy claims.

I. Quality Assurance

- i. Describe the quality assurance process the software is run through to ensure the least number of bugs and issues are found in the product in a production environment. How often is this performed?

J. Implementation - Work Plan

- i. Provide an implementation plan with project timeline, and to the degree possible the tasks and activities that are to be undertaken, as well as identify responsibilities for the completion of each activity and task. The plan should include key decision points and milestones, deliverables and timelines for each stage.

K. Bidder Qualifications and Experience

- i. Provide resumes for any members of your organization who will be actively involved in leading the implementation and overseeing the account.
- ii. Name the person in your organization assigned the responsibility for assuring the timeliness and success of implementation/conversion. Describe the individual's qualifications and provide recently completed implementation information.
- iii. Provide live links to actual or demo systems.

- L. As referenced in subsection 8.2.H, the Bid must reflect the ability of the Bidder to meet or exceed the specifications and requirements.
- M. As referenced in subsection 8.2.H, the following items are required to be submitted in the Bid:
 - i. VPAT
 - ii. Security Certification and Accreditation Assessment
 - iii. SLA
- N. As referenced in subsection 8.2.I, pricing shall be proposed using the Exhibit titled Price. Describe the Bidder's normal pricing structure (one time or ongoing monthly/annual fees) for each component of the solution (if multiple components), including ongoing maintenance and support. Pricing should include implementation fees and any additional costs such as for users over a specific number. What circumstance can the Bidder identify that might make prices change, either now or in the future?
- O. As referenced in subsection 8.2.J, value-added products and/or services within scope of the Acquisition may be included in the Bid.
- P. As referenced in subsection 8.2.K, three years of audited financial statements are required to be included in the Bid. If audited financial statements are not available, unaudited financial statements will be acceptable.
- Q. As referenced in subsection 8.2.L, three (3) business references are required to establish that a Bidder has successful implementation experience.
 - i. Do you currently or have you in the past 5 years provided similar services to other state health plans? If so, please list and indicate if they are a current or former client.
- R. As referenced in subsection 8.2.M, the following additional company information is required to be included in the Bid:
 - i. Length of time the Bidder has been in business providing products and/or services of the type requested;
 - ii. A brief description of the company;
 - iii. Company size and organization;
 - iv. The core competency of the company;
 - v. Number of employees allocated strictly for this contract;
 - vi. Number of employees allocated strictly for support;
 - vii. Number of clients;
 - viii. Average client size (i.e., employee count); and
 - ix. Locations where the Bidder's solution has been deployed.
- S. As referenced in subsection 8.2.N, if a third-party vendor is included as part of a submitted Bid, the following information is required to be included in the Bid for each such third-party vendor:
 - i. Company history;
 - ii. Relationship to Bidder;
 - iii. Clients for which the two entities have worked together; and
 - iv. Products and/or services proposed to be provided by the third-party vendor and how those products and/or services interface with the Bidder's solution.
 - v. Security Certification and Accreditation Assessment

8.2. Bid Packet Format

A. Section One: Cover Page

Provide a dated cover page or transmittal letter that identifies the Solicitation and the Bidder and provides Bidder contact information.

B. Section Two: Required Forms, Certifications and Disclosures

- i** Completed “Responding Bidder Information” form set forth and accompanying required documentation.
- ii** Completed “Certification for Competitive Bid and Contract” form.
- iii** Bidder shall additionally provide in this section of its Bid, disclosure of (1) any public contract terminated by a governmental entity or suits or claims against the Bidder for failure to perform in connection with a public contract (including any company which a Bidder has merged with or acquired that will be performing services or providing products if awarded the Contract); (2) any contractual relationship or any other relevant contact with any State personnel or another Bidder or Supplier involved in the development of a Bidder’s response to the Solicitation; (3) the name of any officer, director or agent of the Bidder who is also an employee of the State or any of its agencies; (4) the name of any state employee who owns, directly or indirectly, an interest of five percent (5%) or more in the Bidder firm or any of its branches and (5) any activity or interest that conflicts or may conflict with the best interest of the State, including but not limited to any person or entity currently under contract with or seeking to do business with the State, its employees or any other third-party individual or entity awarded a contract with the State. Any conflict of interest shall, in the sole discretion of the State, be grounds for rejection of the Bid or partial or whole termination of the Contract.
- iv** Certificate of Insurance and Workers’ Compensation form.
- v** Completed Vendor Payee form.
- vi** Any information requested in connection with subcontractors a Bidder proposes to use in performance of the resulting contract.
- vii** Signed Amendment(s), if any, located at the same online link as the Solicitation. The Bidder shall acknowledge agreement with each Amendment, if any, by inserting the Amendment in this section, signed by or on behalf of the Bidder.

C. Section Three: Bid Portions Requested to be Held Confidential

- i** Any portion of the Bid that the Bidder requests be held confidential shall be listed in this section for independent review regarding confidentiality. For example: “the portion of Section 8 titled Member Satisfaction Survey”. However, the Bid should not be broken apart such that the information requested to be held confidential is only found in this section; rather, such content should be included in the Bid in applicable sections, for efficient evaluation.

- ii For each portion of the Bid listed as considered confidential, the Bidder must identify the specific information considered confidential and fully comply with **OAC 260:115-3-9³** which additionally requires a Bidder to enumerate the specific grounds, based on applicable laws which support treatment of the information as exempt from disclosure and explain why disclosure is not in the best interest of the public.
- iii A Bid marked in total, as proprietary and/or confidential shall not be considered confidential. Likewise, unless specifically referenced otherwise, resumes, pricing, marketing materials, business references, Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates, additional terms proposed by a Bidder and subcontractor information are not confidential and are not exempt from disclosure under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. The foregoing list is intended to address information often marked confidential that is not exempt from disclosure and is not an exhaustive list.
- iv **ANY INFORMATION MARKED AS CONFIDENTIAL AND EMBODIED ELSEWHERE IN A BID RATHER THAN LISTED IN THIS SECTION OF THE BID PACKET WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE WITHOUT FURTHER REVIEW. THE STATE HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY TO INDEPENDENTLY REVIEW AN ENTIRE BID FOR A CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIM. LIKEWISE, CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIMS OF A BIDDER WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IF A BID DOES NOT COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF OAC 260:115-3-9 AND THE INFORMATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO STATE LAW.**

D. Section Four: Requested Exceptions to Terms

- i Any requested exception or revision to terms or conditions provided by the State shall be inserted in this section using the table provided at the end of these Bidder Instructions. If no exceptions or revisions are requested, the Bid should reflect that by either submitting the table with no additions to it or by inserting a page to denote this section is not applicable. Each requested exception or revision shall identify (i) the document and section reference of the specific affected term and (ii) either that the term is inapplicable and should be intentionally omitted or offer alternative language if the Bidder is requesting revision of the term. Some examples are provided on the table for illustrative purposes only and, if not deleted in a submitted Bid, will be disregarded.
- ii Use tracked changes to propose alternative language, added language or other revision. Requests not shown as tracked changes may be returned to the Bidder for compliance with this requirement and review will be delayed as a result.
- iii Each entry on the exceptions table must reference only one subsection or section (if there are no subsections). Including multiple subsections in one entry may

³ OAC 260:115-3-9 is located at http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/frmMain?OpenFrameSet&Frame=Main&Src=_75tnm2shfcdnm8pb4dthj0chedppmcbq8dtmmak31ctijujrgcln50ob7ckj42tbkdt374obdcli00

result in the table being returned to the Bidder for compliance with this requirement and review will be delayed as a result.

- iv A clarification question is not an exception and any clarification included in this section will be disregarded.
- v If the Bid contains a copy of **master** terms between the Bidder and the State that the Bidder believes are applicable to the Acquisition, the Bidder need not take exceptions to the General Terms; however, the remainder of terms and contents of a document provided by the State including, without limitation, all attachments, appendices and exhibits remain applicable and are not supplanted by such **master** terms. Therefore, any exception to terms in the Solicitation or any other document related to the Acquisition, other than General Terms, must be included in this section as an exception.
- vi **THE STATE HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY TO INDEPENDENTLY REVIEW AN ENTIRE BID FOR EXCEPTIONS AND ANY EXCEPTION EMBODIED IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE BID OR IN A FORMAT OTHER THAN THE PROVIDED TABLE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. LIKEWISE, AN EXCEPTION EXPRESSING ONLY GENERAL DISAGREEMENT WITH A TERM OR A GENERAL EXCEPTION TO ANY STATE TERMS OR CONDITIONS, WITHOUT SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE WORDING OR IDENTIFYING THAT THE TERM SHOULD BE INTENTIONALLY OMITTED, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

E. Section Five: Additional Bidder Terms

Any additional terms that the Bidder requests be applicable to the Contract shall be inserted in this section and shall be provided in Word format. **THE STATE HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY TO INDEPENDENTLY REVIEW AN ENTIRE BID FOR ADDITIONAL TERMS AND ANY SUCH TERMS NOT SUBMITTED IN THIS SECTION OF THE BID SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** Should a Bidder be awarded a Contract, neither the State nor a customer shall be required to execute additional documents not included in a Bid. For example, if a Bidder typically uses an ordering document in connection with an acquisition, the ordering document template shall be included in the Bid.

F. Section Six: Master Terms between Bidder and State

A copy of any master terms, mutually executed by the Bidder and the State, that the Bidder believes are applicable to the Acquisition shall be inserted in this section. Any master terms not submitted in this section of the Bid shall not be considered.

G. Section Seven: Executive Summary

The Bidder's executive summary shall be inserted in this section. Marketing information, general company information and other similar information should be included in the executive summary. Avoid duplication of such information in other sections of the Bid; it unnecessarily lengthens the Bid and hinders efficient evaluation.

H. Section Eight: Response to Specifications and Requirements

- i** The portion of the Bid to be inserted in this section shows the ability of the Bidder to meet or exceed any Acquisition specifications and requirements.
- ii** If an information technology VPAT is required, the URL link to the Bidder's VPAT shall be inserted in this section at a Bid Packet page referencing the VPAT.
- iii** If an information technology Security Certification and Accreditation Assessment is required, the completed Assessment shall be inserted in this section at a Bid Packet page referencing the Security Accreditation Assessment. The Assessment is located online at https://omes.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc316/f/SecurityCertification-R_0.xlsx.
- iv** If service level agreements are required, the proposed service level agreements shall be inserted in this section at a Bid Packet page referencing the proposed Service Level Agreements.
- v** If a Statement of Work is required, the proposed draft shall be inserted in this section at a Bid Packet page referencing the proposed Statement of Work.

I. Section Nine: Pricing

Pricing associated with the Bid shall be inserted in this section and shall be in the required structure set forth above in Subsection 8.1, if any.

J. Section Ten: Offer of Value-Added Products and/or Services

If a Bid includes an offer of value-added products and/or services, such offer shall be inserted in this section and include associated pricing and any other information relevant to such value-added offer. However, the State is not obligated to purchase value-added products or services.

K. Section Eleven: Financial Information

Any required financial and associated information shall be inserted in this section.

L. Section Twelve: Business References

Any required business references and associated information shall be inserted in this section.

M. Section Thirteen: Additional Company Information

Any required additional company information shall be inserted in this section.

N. Section Fourteen: Third Party Vendor Information

Any required additional third-party vendor information shall be inserted in this section.

9 Submission of Bid

9.1 IT IS THE BIDDER'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT INFORMATION IN THE BID AS REQUESTED AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OKLAHOMA CENTRAL

PURCHASING ACT AND ASSOCIATED OAC TITLE 260 RULES⁴ INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION OAC 260:115-3-7 AND 260:115-3-11⁵. A submitted Bid is rendered as a legal offer and is required to be in strict conformity with these Bidder Instructions.

- 9.2** A Bid shall be submitted via email solely to OMESCPeBID@omes.ok.gov. Please note that it is possible a Bidder's email system may have limitations on the size of outgoing email attachments and plan accordingly for the entire Bid to be received by the Bid Response Due Date and Time. A Bid emailed directly to or cc'd to the Contracting Officer will not be reviewed by the Contracting Officer. In person, commercial carrier or facsimile submittals shall not be accepted. The subject line of the email Bid shall contain the following: Attention: [insert Contracting Officer name]; Solicitation Number and Bid Response Due Date and Time. The State is not responsible for incorrect link information or its inability to access a submitted Bid. Receipt of a Bid will generate an automatic notice that the Bid is received; if a Bidder believes a Bid has been sent but has not received a notice of receipt, the Bidder should contact the Contracting Officer at the email or phone number shown on the Bidder Instructions Cover Page. Receipt of the Bid by the State is the responsibility of the Bidder.
- 9.3** Unless otherwise specified in the Solicitation, (i) manufacturers' names, brand names, information, and/or catalog numbers listed in a specification are for informational purposes and not intended to limit competition and (ii) a Bidder may offer any brand for which it is an authorized representative, which meets or exceeds the specification for any item(s). Bidder shall offer new items of current design and technology unless the State specifies older models or versions, or used, reconditioned, or remanufactured products are acceptable. Warranties in either case should be the same. However, if a Bid is based on equivalent products, the Bid is required to state the manufacturer's name and number. The Bid shall also explain in detail how the proposed equivalent will meet the specifications and not be considered an exception thereto.
- 9.4** Reference to literature submitted with a previous Bid shall not satisfy a specification or requirement associated with the present Bid. Any previous solicitation or resultant contract shall not be depended upon, perceived or interpreted to have any relevance to the present Bid.
- 9.5** Bids shall remain a firm offer for a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) days after the Bid Response Due Date. Any usage amounts provided by the State are estimates and are not guaranteed to be purchased.
- 9.6** Unless specified otherwise, a Bidder shall submit a firm, fixed price for the term, including optional renewal terms, of the Contract. The Bidder guarantees unit prices to be correct.
- 9.7** In accordance with 74 O.S. §85.40, all travel expenses to be incurred by Supplier in performance of the Contract shall be included in the total Bid price. Travel expenses include, but are not limited to, transportation, lodging and meals. Examples of other miscellaneous travel expenses are referenced in §10.14 of the Statewide Accounting Manual⁶.
- 9.8** A Bid containing early payment discounts may be evaluated when making an award. If a Bidder wishes to offer an early payment discount, the Bid must include available discount percentages for

⁴ Oklahoma Administrative Code Title 260, Chapter 115 is located at

<http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/frmMain?OpenFrameSet&Frame=Main&Src=75tnm2shfcdnm8pb4dthj0chedppmcbq8dtmmak31ctijjrgcln50ob7ckj42tbkdt374obdcli00>

⁵ OAC 260:115-3-7 and OAC 260:115-3-11 are located at

<http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/frmMain?OpenFrameSet&Frame=Main&Src=75tnm2shfcdnm8pb4dthj0chedppmcbq8dtmmak31ctijjrgcln50ob7ckj42tbkdt374obdcli00>

⁶ Statewide Accounting Manual is located at <https://omes.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc316f/StatewideAccountingManual.pdf>.

no less than ten (10) days payment, increasing in five (5) day increments up to thirty (30) days. The discount percentages shall be expressed in a half or whole percentage, with the minimum discount percentage being 0.5%. The State is not obligated to utilize an offered discount.

- 9.9** All costs incurred by the Bidder for Bid preparation and participation shall be the sole responsibility of the Bidder and the Bidder shall not be reimbursed for any such costs. By submitting a Bid, Bidder agrees not to make any claims for damages or have any rights to damages in connection with the Bid.
- 9.10** For consistency of contract structure, certain State terms may be marked “Intentionally Omitted”. If so, no response is expected.
- 9.11** After review of a Bidder's submitted documents and information, the State may require additional terms for an Acquisition in which State or citizen data will be accessed, processed, stored or transmitted by a Supplier.
- 9.12** Each Bid is required to include relevant information for a designated contact to receive notice, approvals and requests.

10 Bid Withdrawal, Bid Change and Alternate Bid

- 10.1** Except as authorized by the State Purchasing Director after proof by the Bidder that a significant error by the Bidder exists in the Bid, a Bid may not be withdrawn after the Bid Response Due Date and Time. If the Bidder wishes to withdraw a Bid prior to the Bid Response Due Date and Time, the Bidder shall submit a written withdrawal request to the State Purchasing Director in accordance with OAC 260:115-3-13⁷ at the email address listed in Section 9 above.
- 10.2** Except as requested by the State, a Bid may not be changed after the Bid Response Due Date and Time. If the Bidder needs to change a submitted Bid prior to the Bid Response Due Date and Time, the Bidder shall withdraw the originally submitted Bid and a new Bid shall be submitted to the State by the Bid Response Due Date and Time in accordance with Section 9 and include the following statement on the superseding Bid cover page: **“THIS BID SUPERSEDES THE BID PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED” AND “SUPERSEDING BID” MUST APPEAR IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL.**
- 10.3** A Bidder may submit one or more Alternate Bids. Any Alternate Bid submitted shall be a complete Bid and shall be clearly identified as an Alternate Bid in the subject line of the email. If more than one Alternate Bid is submitted, the identification in the email subject line shall refer to Alternate Bid 1, Alternate Bid 2, etc.

11 Bid Rejection

- 11.1** The Bidder’s failure to submit required information may cause its Bid to be rejected. Additionally, a Bid received after the Bid Response Due Date and Time **SHALL BE DEEMED NON-RESPONSIVE AND SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED unless the State Purchasing Director has authorized acceptance of Bids due to a significant error or incident that occurred which**

⁷ OAC 260:115-3-13 is located at

http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/frmMain?OpenFrameSet&Frame=Main&Src=_75tnm2shfcdnm8pb4dthj0chedppmcbq8dtmmak31ctijjrgcln50ob7ckj42tbkdt374obdcli00.

affected the receipt of a Bid.⁸ Failure to comply with these Bidder Instructions may result in the Bid being disqualified from evaluation.

- 11.2 A Bid may be rejected when the Bidder imposes terms or conditions that would modify requirements. Other possible reasons for rejection of Bids are listed in OAC 260:115-3-5 and 260:115-7-32(h)⁹.
- 11.3 Attempts to impose unacceptable conditions on the State or impose alternative terms not in the best interest of the State may result in rejection of the Bid even if initially determined to be responsive or the State may cease any negotiations regarding the Bid.
- 11.4 Whenever the terms “shall”, “must”, “will”, or “is required” are used, the specification being referred to is a mandatory specification. Failure to meet any mandatory specification may cause rejection of a Bid.
- 11.5 Whenever the terms “can”, “may”, or “should” are used, the specification being referred to is a desirable item and failure to provide any item so termed shall not be cause for rejection of a Bid.

12 Bid Public Opening

There will be no physical Bid openings. A public Bid opening, **which will disclose the name of each Bidder and no further information**, will be conducted on a per request basis via Zoom provided the Contracting Officer receives a written request no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Bid Response Due Date and Time. Zoom information will be provided to anyone requesting a public Bid Opening.

13 Evaluation

- 13.1 A responsive Bid will proceed to the evaluation process. Unless the Solicitation specifies that “best value” criteria will be used to determine award, Bids shall be evaluated on “lowest and best” criteria.
- 13.2 Pursuant to OAC 260:115-7-32, Bidder past performance as a Supplier may be considered when evaluating a Bid.
- 13.3 Pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.44E, a Bid submitted by a service-disabled veteran business that does business in Oklahoma or maintains an Oklahoma office or place of business will be given a three-percentage point bonus preference in scoring the Bid.
- 13.4 The State reserves the right to require demonstrations, clarifications and additional documentation from any or all responding Bidders. Each Bidder should be prepared to participate in oral presentations and demonstrations to define the Bid, to introduce the Bidder’s team and to respond to questions regarding the Bid prior to award.

14 Competitive Negotiations of Offers

- 14.1 The State reserves the right to negotiate with none or one or more Bidders responding to the Solicitation and may negotiate any or all content of the Bid to obtain the best value for the State.

⁸ OAC 260:115-3-11

⁹ OAC 260:115-3-5 and 260:115-7-32 is located at:

http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/frmMain?OpenFrameSet&Frame=Main&Src=75tnm2shfcdnm8pb4dthj0chedppmcbq8dtmmak31ctijjrgcln50ob7ckj42tbkdt374obdcli00_

Negotiations may be conducted in person, in writing or by electronic means and shall only be conducted with potentially acceptable Bids.

- 14.2 Negotiations could entail discussions on products, services, pricing, contract terminology or any other issue material to an award decision or that may mitigate the State's risks. The State shall consider all issues arising from the Bid to be negotiable and will not be artificially constrained by Bidder internal corporate policies. Firms that contend a lack of flexibility because of corporate policy on a particular negotiation item shall face a significant disadvantage and may not be considered.
- 14.3 In the event of prolonged contract negotiations due to the number and/or significance of exceptions taken, lack of Bidder responsiveness or other failure to close contract negotiations, the State may, in its discretion, offer a successful Bidder a shorter contract term.
- 14.4 Terms, conditions, prices, methodology, or other features of the Bid may be subject to negotiations and subsequent revision. As part of the negotiations, the Bidder may be required to submit supporting financial, pricing, and other data in order to allow a detailed evaluation of the feasibility, reasonableness, and acceptability of the Bid.
- 14.5 Requirements and any terms marked as non-negotiable after the section title shall not be negotiable and shall remain unchanged unless the State determines that a change in such requirements or terms is in the best interest of the State.
- 14.6 The State may request a BAFO and shall determine the scope and subject of any BAFO request. However, the Bidder should not expect an opportunity to otherwise strengthen its Bid and should submit its best Bid based on requirements herein. Any information offered outside the scope of the BAFO request will be disregarded.

15 Award of Contract

- 15.1 The State may award the contract to more than one Bidder by awarding the contract(s) by item or groups of items or may award the contract on an all or none basis, whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.
- 15.2 In order to receive an award or payments from the State, a Bidder must be registered **as both a Bidder and as a Supplier** and must maintain the registration prior to any Contract renewal term. The registration process may be completed electronically at the following link: <https://omes.ok.gov/services/purchasing/vendor-registration>.
- 15.3 Pursuant to Oklahoma Attorney General Opinion No. 06-23, any Bidder that has assisted in preparing the Solicitation or developing the procurement terms, either directly or indirectly, is precluded from being awarded the Contract or from securing a sub-contractor that has provided such services.
- 15.4 Prior to award, the State may choose to request information from the Bidder to demonstrate its financial status and performance. If the Bidder is a subsidiary of another entity, the last three years audited financial statements of three years tax returns for the parent company may also be required. *If audited financial statements are not available, unaudited financial statements will be acceptable.*

The State reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to determine a Bidder's financial status and to withhold award to a Bidder who is not deemed financially responsible.

- 15.5** A notice of award may be in the form of a purchase order or other payment mechanism or in the form of a mutually executed contract.

**BID PACKET SECTION FOUR: REQUESTED EXCEPTIONS TO TERMS
SOLICITATION NO. 0900000477**

Term & Section	Language
General Terms, Pricing (Section 5.2, pg. 7) EXAMPLE	Section 5.2 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Pursuant to 74 O.S. §85.40, all travel expenses of Supplier must be included in the total Acquisition price. Travel expenses include, but are not limited to, lodging, transportation and meal expenses.
Information Technology Terms, Appendix 1, Data Security (Section B.2, pg. 12) EXAMPLE	Section B.2 shall be modified to add the following: Customer is responsible for Personal Data encryption when solely in the Customer’s possession.
Information Technology Terms, Source Code Escrow (Section 9, pg. 5) EXAMPLE	Section 9 is deleted in its entirety.